

AN ADVENTURE OF
TINTIN

FREELANCE REPORTER FOR
LE VINGTIÈME SIÈCLE



Drawn by RODIER from the characters created by HERGÉ
From a proposed scenario in the "Spirou" magazine
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AN ADVENTURE OF **TINTIN** FREELANCE REPORTER FOR **LE VINGTIÈME SIÈCLE**

One day ...



Would you believe it, Snowy ! We were just two streets away when this occurred ! Perhaps I wasn't cut out to be a reporter



Out of the way, kid. Oh ! Sorry !



Hey ! Did you see, Snowy ? That was Mickey Martino ! Quick, follow him !



He's stopped... He's going into the restaurant... Drop me just here !



Hello, Inspector ? Tintin here, from the Vingtième Siècle. I've just located Mickey Martino !



A few minutes later ...



Mickey Martino ? Come with us !

I'm having my dinner ...
... and also, I haven't
done anything !



I protest ! I haven't done anything !



It's useless, Martino. Here's
the warrant. We're going to
search your premises.

But, what do you
want with me ?



Don't play the innocent ! The Western Bank
was robbed yesterday ... the crime fits your
style perfectly, old fellow !



Yesterday, you say ? Then you're
out of luck, Inspector ! I've just
returned from Italy today. I got
off the train about two hours
ago ... I have witnesses ...



Well, we shall see ...

Speak to my housekeeper ...



I'm certain, Mr Inspector.
Mr Martino gave me his
key before his departure.
Nobody has entered since,
not even me ...



So, nobody, not even you, has entered this
apartment for three days. Fine, but we'll
search all the same, just for peace of mind ...



RRRRRIING



What's that ?!



A ringing ...

Wait ! Come
with me !



It was only an alarm clock going off ...

... and a little later ...

Yes ! But of course !



No, Inspector ... we've searched every-where, and no clues ... nothing.



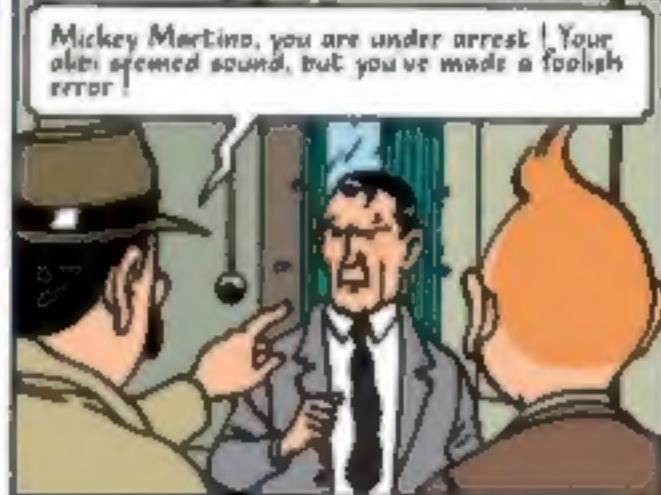
Yes ! But of course !



Listen, Inspector ... ? ... ?

Good heavens, you're right !

Mickey Martino, you are under arrest ! Your alibi seemed sound, but you've made a foolish error !



Later, at the offices of *Le Vingtième Siècle*...

Tintin, I congratulate you ! Your report on Mickey Martino's arrest is excellent !

But how did you work out that his alibi was false ?

Simple - the alarm clock told me !

If nobody had been in the apart-ment for three days, how could the alarm clock have set itself to ring ? ... In reality, poor old Martino had absent-mindedly wound it up that same morning !



Well done ! I think you've got the makings of a fine reporter !

Thanks !

So, for your first major report, what do you say to a trip to the Soviet Union ?

Are you serious, sir ?

Let's quickly go and get ready, Snowy ! We're off to the Land of the Soviets for a top story !

That's the end of a quiet life !



THE
END